

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 9-18 are all the claims pending in the present Application. By this Amendment Applicants editorially amend claim 10 to correct an informality. By this Amendment Applicants add new claims 15-19. Ample support for the newly added claims can be found throughout the specification.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the receipt of priority documents submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

With regard to the Interview Summary provided with the present Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that no Statement of Substance of the Interview is necessary, as this statement was previously filed together with the Response of June 11, 2007.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Takeyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,018). Applicants respectfully disagree.

With regard to Takeyama, this reference suffers from the same deficiencies as the Haffenden reference, which was discussed during the Interview of May 30, 2007. Specifically, Takeyama fails to disclose, or even suggest “said **card insertion port comprising a slope** to guide the insertion of a card into said internal housing, wherein one end of **the slope has an edge for abutting the card** in a predetermined position.”

Instead, Takeyama discloses a “upwardly directing hook” formed on one end of the inclination surface. Similar to the pips 30 of Haffenden, the “upwardly directing hook” of Takeyama is not an edge of the inclination surface or even part of the inclination surface itself, but instead a protrusion formed on the sloped portion. In other words, the “upwardly directing hook” of Takeyama is an **additional structure** formed on one end of the inclination surface, and not the “edge” of the inclination surface itself.

For at least this reason Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited art of record.

With regard to claims 2, 4, and 9-13, these claims depend from claim 1, and as such, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. They are also allowable because of the additional limitations recited therein.

For example, with respect to claim 10, Applicants have already discussed the claimed “at least one protrusion” as it pertains to the “guide grooves 36” of Haffenden. (See FIG. 3 of Haffenden). During the Interview of May 30, 2007, the Examiner agreed that claim 10, as amended, would overcome the guide grooves structure disclosed in Haffenden. Nevertheless, the Examiner now rejects claim 10 by relying on the same structure taught by a different reference (compare engagement elements (11) of Takeyama to the guide grove structure (36) of Haffenden). Applicants respectfully disagree.

With respect to claim 10, Takeyama fails to disclose, or even suggest, a “card holding structure ... wherein said **internal housing, which covers said card**, is provided with at least

one protrusion extending in a direction toward the card connector and retaining said card in said predetermined position.”

In support of his position, the Examiner asserts that the claimed protrusions correspond to engagement elements (11) “formed **as part of** top cover plate (15).” This is simply incorrect.

In fact, Takeyama teaches using **either** the engagement elements 11 **or** the top plate 15. (See Col. 3, ll. 46-53 “On the other hand, in FIGS 1 to 5, a top plate [1]5 is provided, **instead of the engagement elements 11** ...”). In other words, the engagement elements 11 are not formed “as part of the top cover plate 15” as the Examiner asserts, but instead formed as **an alternative** to the top cover plate.

Conversely, claim 10 requires an “internal housing which covers said card” and furthermore that the “at least one protrusion” is **provided on the internal housing**. Additionally, claim 10 requires for the “at least one protrusion” to be formed in a direction “**toward the card connector**.” For at least these additional reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 10 is allowable over the cited art of record.

With regard to claim 14, Takeyama fails to disclose, or even suggest “a stopper part located in said slope part, wherein **the stopper part is ductile so as to conform to the slope of the slope part** when pressure is applied.”

Instead, Takeyama teaches that when the card 5 is inserted into the space 6, the upwardly directed hook 21 of the latch arm 20 must be pressed down. Next, “[a]t the time when the insertion of the IC card 5 has been completed, **the latch arm 20 is restored**.” (See Col. 5, ll. 43-

47). In other words, the entire latch arm 20 is bent down, and is then returned to its normal position once the card 5 is fully inserted.

To the extent the Examiner is relying on FIGS. 5A-5D as teaching the upwardly directed hook 21 being able to conform to the slope of the sloped part, this is incorrect. FIGS. 5A through 5D show the cross section of the card connector taken on a line through a contact 14. By comparison, the Examiner is directed to FIG. 8, where a cross sectional view is “taken on a line **through a latch arm of FIG. 6.**” (See Col. 3, ll. 3-4) Moreover, FIGS. 5A-D, 6 and 7 are all directed to **a single embodiment** of the Takeyama invention, and in this embodiment, the entire latch arm 20 is bent to accommodate the insertion of the card. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 14 is allowable over the cited art of record.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This Application is being filed via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). Applicants herewith petition the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/671,667

Attorney Docket No.: Q77598

Any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

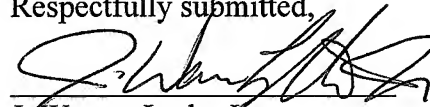
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